

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 481

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Chief Ricky Watson on the occasion of his retirement from the Brentwood Police Department.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those law enforcement professionals who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm, always remaining true to their motto, "To protect and serve"; and

WHEREAS, Ricky Watson is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as a law enforcement officer for the last thirty-three years, having astutely handled the reins of leadership as Chief of Police for the City of Brentwood for the past eleven years; and

WHEREAS, now taking a much-deserved retirement from a distinguished law enforcement career, Chief Watson began his career with the City of Memphis in 1978. After serving eight years in law enforcement in Memphis, Ricky Watson joined the Brentwood Police Department as a Captain in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, Captain Watson assumed command of the department to become only the second Police Chief in the city's history; and

WHEREAS, prior to initiating his career in public safety, Chief Watson enlisted and served in the United States Air Force; he was honorably discharged in 1976. He resumed military service in 1983, commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, as a Guardsman, Chief Watson perfected his law enforcement skills, received a promotion, and was honorably discharged at the rank of 1st Lieutenant after eight years of service; and

WHEREAS, Chief Watson pursued higher education at Memphis State University and graduated in 1980 with a degree in Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, admired, respected, and deeply appreciated by those under his command and by the citizens of his community, Chief Watson has a sterling law enforcement record, and he has never hesitated to go above and beyond the call of duty for the safety and betterment of his city; and

WHEREAS, now the State's most tenured accredited law enforcement agency, the Brentwood Police Department received its initial accreditation in 1989, as a result of Chief Watson's singular determination. He has since led his police force confidently and competently in responding to major crimes and natural disasters such as the Christmas Eve tornado of 1988, as well as the execution of routine law enforcement duties on the highways, in the schools, and throughout the community of his jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Chief Watson's loving and devoted wife, Lisa, has been by his side for thirty years. Together, they are extremely proud of their son, John Watson, who is a law enforcement officer for the City of Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Chief Ricky Watson exemplifies the values of hard work, compassion, and loyalty that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and diligent officer of the law; and

WHEREAS, he has served his community and his country with the utmost pride, professionalism, and integrity throughout the many years of his esteemed career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Chief Ricky Watson, exceptional police officer and friend to his community, for his years of exemplary service with the City of Brentwood Police Department, thank him for his dedication and leadership, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.